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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,287	07/09/2003	Hiroyuki Takahashi	16816	9906
23389	7590	03/04/2009		
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC			EXAMINER	
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA			SHAY, DAVID M	
SUITE 300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530			3769	
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		03/04/2009	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/616,287	Applicant(s) TAKAHASHI, HIROYUKI
	Examiner david shay	Art Unit 3769

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on December 11, 2008.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 33-42 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 41 and 42 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 33-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/146/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 2, 2008 has been entered.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 33-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The originally filed disclosure is silent on "identifying the type of the treatment

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equipment connected to the first connecting portion in response to the replacement of the treatment equipment connected to the first connecting portion" and "control portion outputting identification information corresponding to the type of the treatment equipment identified by the first identification portion when the treatment equipment connected to the first medical device is replaced".

Claims 33-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicant has provided no disclosure of the means by which the various devices determine that they are to act in a "master" capacity with regard to the subsequently connected devices, if anything it appears from the originally filed disclosure (see particularly pages 21-26) that devices are master devices based on a hierarchical system, rather than when they are replaced, as the claims recite.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 33-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 33-40 exactly what is intended to be inferred by the term "replaced" is unclear. This term lacks positive antecedent basis in the originally filed disclosure, and it is not clear if this term is referring to the devices being swapped out of usage due to, e.g. having exceeded their

useful life, or being moved out of the operative field and then replaced in the operative site for further usage.

Claims 33-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Published Application Publication JP 2001-178734 to Takahashi in combination with Peterson et al. Takahashi (JP '734) teaches a control system for multiple medical devices comprising a first instrument control part (Fig. 7, # 112) with an output part (Fig. 7, # 113) connected to a first instrument in a probe (Fig. 7, # 105) via a connector (Fig. 7, # 119). The output portion is interpreted as providing a drive signal to the device. The connector also acts to identify the device attached via an instrument identification portion (Fig. 7, # 116) using a resistance detector (Fig. 2). The probe also contains a second device controlled by a second control portion (Fig. 7, # 122). Switches are disclosed that control the two instruments (Fig. 7, #s 106 & 107). A communications line (Fig. 7, # 108) connects and transfers data between the two control portions. The data may include instrument identification and the status of the switches. Based on the determination of the identity of the device, the control parameters are set and a determination is made as to whether to interlock the devices; that is whether the devices may operate together or separately. Multiple operational modes are disclosed wherein based on the switch positions, the instruments involved and determination of permission to operate together (interlock), operation may be controlled independently by each switch, or one switch is enabled to control both devices. Peterson et al teach providing medical devices that can be cascaded, and allowing one of the devices to be configured either as a master or a slave. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to enable one of the devices of Takahashi (JP '734) to be configured as a master and the other devices to be configured as slaves, since this would enable coordinated

control of the devices and prevent the occurrence of erroneous or undesirable operations, and to cause this to happen automatically upon replacement of the device, since this is merely the substitution of an automatic means for a manual one, which is obvious (see *In re Venner*, 262 F.2d 91, 120 USPQ 192 (CCPA 1958)), thus producing a device such as claimed.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 33-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to david shay whose telephone number is (571) 272-4773. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Johnson, can be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/david shay/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3769